Houses under the RLEGP

*204. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to sanction houses under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme to all weaker sections of society in the flood-affected areas in the various States irrespective of their caste and community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such request was made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) to (d) Under Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), houses can be built for only Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes below poverty line and the freed bonded labourers—whether they are flood affected or not. For those above the poverty line, no provision exists under RLEGP to build houses. However, under the flood relief norms, assistance is provided for those whose houses are damaged by flood irrespective of caste or community.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has made a request for construction of 50,000 houses from out of non-earmarked funds under RLEGP for poorer sections of the society belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes in the areas of the State affected by the recent rains and floods. Since the houses being constructed under the RLEGP are meant only for the benefit of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes below the poverty line and the freed bonded labourers, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been advised to formulate any project covering this set of beneficiaries from the non-earmarked funds of RLEGP for consideration and approval of the Government of India.

Sale of Potato chips and other snack foods by the Pepsico

*207. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what per cent of the total Punjab Agro-Pepsico project's sales would be of Potato Chips and other snack foods;

(b) what percentage thereof would be of soft drinks; and

(c) whether these two items would be of help to horticulture and to the farmers and if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 40 per cent.

(b) 25 per cent.

(c) The proposed foreign collaboration by Punjab Agro Industries Corporation envisages transfer of 'State-of-the-art' technology for increasing yields, developing suitable varieties of fruits, vegetables and oilseeds, introduction of improved agronomic practices, introduction of new postharvest technologies for better storage and distribution and above all, for linking R&D effort to the needs of the market and industry. This is expected to result in better yield of crops and consequently higher income to the farmers. Inter-alia the manufacture of potato based products and fruit based soft drinks will ensure offtake of fruit and vegetable also and benefit the farmers.

Drinking water in Madhya Pradesh

*208. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 60 per cent of the work under the Technology Mission programme for drinking water in the tribal Johaba District of the Western Coast